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Letter dated 8 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour and the duty to respond to the letter from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo dated 1 August 2001, issued together with its annex (S/2001/759).

1. Congo-Kinshasa is hard put to exercise authority over even one quarter of the country

The Congo-Kinshasa authorities, extremely frustrated because they are now administering only one quarter of the country, the remaining three quarters being in the hands of various Congolese rebels, are trying as best they can, with their dwindling reserves of energy (see the letter from the Ministry of Communication of the Democratic Republic of the Congo), to brainwash international public opinion into believing their entirely imaginary and retrograde claims of secessionism and expansionism.

Congo-Kinshasa has, in fact, mistaken by far which era we are in. We are no longer in the era of Charlemagne, or of the Napoleonic conquests. We are in the era of globalization and have just entered the twenty-first century, with all that that implies in terms of vision and of perception of today's world, which is progressing towards a strong and independent African Union, in the context of a more extensive and sounder intercontinental whole.

It is not without reason that in current United Nations usage Africa, Europe, the Americas and Asia are already referred to as regions.

2. When Congo-Kinshasa draws a distinction between "invited rebels" and "uninvited rebels"

The Kinshasa authorities, tormented by the Lusaka Agreement, which is propelling them straight towards an all-out inter-Congolese dialogue, is now engaging in a risky exercise of distinguishing between "good" and "bad" rebels.

For Kinshasa, the good ones are the Bunia and the Gbadolité rebels. The bad ones are the Goma rebels, which Kinshasa is constantly targeting, accusing them of being guilty of practically everything, in keeping with the simplistic "invited" and "uninvited" refrain.

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This little game of hide-and-seek is so childish that the Congolese rebels of Goma, Bunia and Gbadolité will not fall into that trap, even once the inter-Congolese dialogue under preparation has begun.

3. Congo-Kinshasa is sounding false alarms

The Kinshasa authorities do not have exclusive rights over a unitary and independent Congo; in fact, they have no special privileges in that connection. They have no monopoly over such a Congo, which is just as much a concern of the Congolese authorities of Goma, Bunia and Gbadolité.

For the Kinshasa authorities to keep returning to that theme now is therefore nothing but demagoguery.

The Government of Rwanda, recalling its most recent response, dated 19 July 2001 (S/2001/716), calls on the Security Council not to give any credence to the claims of the Kinshasa authorities set out in the documents issued on 13 July 2001 (S/2001/694) and 1 August 2001 (S/2001/759).

We should be grateful if you would have this response issued as a document of the Security Council and circulated to all Member States of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Anastase **Gasana**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative